

THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE STREET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Hawker and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the state of the public health of the Urban District for the year 1948.

The Ministry of Health have again requested that the report be prepared on the lines of that for 1947 as laid down in their circular 170/47, dated the 31st December, 1947.

In summarising the report it is interesting to note that the estimated population is still increasing, 5,452 (5,311).

There has been an increase in the number of live births, 115 (110) and a decrease in the number of deaths 46 (52), both being well above and below, respectively, the rate for England and Wales.

The Infant Mortality rate is considerably less, 8.69 (27.27) being well under that for England and Wales, 34.

Heart Disease once again provides the largest number of deaths, 27, out of a total of 46, and this is in keeping with the rest of England.

There has been an epidemic of measles during the year, without any serious consequences.

No case of puerperal fever was notified.

There has been a considerable falling off in the number of immunization against diphtheria and this also is the experience of the rest of the country.

Too much stress cannot be laid on the importance of maintaining immunization.

Fortunately, no case of diphtheria was notified during the year.

I have commented elsewhere on the general value to the district of the Greenbank Swimming Pool.

The problem of the case of elderly people remains; indeed it is increasing in difficulty.

May I, in conclusion, express to you Mr. Chairman and the Members of the Council, my appreciation for your continued courtesy and my thanks to my colleagues for their loyalty and help.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Mrs Hawker and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. H. C. EGLINTON.

Medical Officer of Health.

September, 1949.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH 1948

VITAL AND OTHER STATISTICS

Area of the Urban District of Street - 3,069 acres.	<u>1948</u>	<u>1947</u>
Population - The estimated population for 1948 was...	5,452	5,311
The number of live births, including 5 illegitimate births was 115	115	110
(59 male, 56 female) giving a live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated civilian population of	21.07	20.71
The live birth rate for England & Wales being	17.90	20.50
The number of still births was... .. 3.00	3.00	3.00
(Male 2 and female 1) Giving a still birth rate of.	0.54	0.56
The still birth rate for England & Wales being	0.54	0.50
The number of deaths was. 46	46	52
(15 male, 31 female) giving a death rate per 1,000 of the estimated civilian population of... ..	8.48	9.79
The death rate for England and Wales being... ..	10.80	12.00

Infants

The number of deaths of infants under one year (all legitimate) was 1.00	1.00	3.00
Giving an infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births of..	8.69	27.27
The Infant Mortality for England and Wales being. ...	34.00	41.00

Causes of death (Total 46)

Suicide and other violent causes.	2	0
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System... ..	1	2
Cancer... ..	6	7
Intra-cranial & other vascular lesions... ..	5	9
Heart Diseases... ..	27	19
Pneumonia	1	3
Nephritis	2	2
Bronchitis... ..	1	0
All other causes.	1	2

Notifications of Infectious Diseases

Measles	164	7
Whooping Cough	3	36
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1

Notifications of Tuberculosis

Respiratory	2	5
Non-respiratory	2	2

No deaths during year

<u>Tuberculosis</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1947</u>
Number of cases on the register on December 31st	18	21
Respiratory	12	13
Non-respiratory	6	8

Diphtheria

The estimated mid-year child population for 1948	1096
Age 1 - 4 years	459
5 - 15 years	637

Immunization

The total number of cases immunized during the year	103
The total number of immunizations to date being	855
No case of Diphtheria was notified during the year.	

Child Welfare and Nursing Associations

The Child Welfare and Nursing Associations have again maintained a high standard of efficiency and proved of great value to the community.

The Infant Welfare Clinic is held every Wednesday in a portion of the Hindhayes Infant School, where the District Nurses, three in number, ordinarily attend. I attend as Medical Officer on alternate Wednesdays. Voluntary helpers continue to carry out their various duties with efficiency their work and enthusiasm greatly contributing to the success of the Centre.

Activities - Various lectures including talks on teething, cleaning of bottles, together with Ministry of Information films have taken place during the year.

Two sessions of Immunization against diphtheria have taken place.

Attendance

Children up to five years of age attended, including adopted babies (9).

Under 1 year	745
Over 1 year	478
Mothers	920

Children from outside areas have also attended, namely Shepton Mallet, Compton Dundon and Walton.

Distribution of Supplies under the Ministry's Scheme include orange juice, cod liver oil and cod liver oil capsules.

The three District Nurses have again had a busy year, the total number of attendances being higher than the previous year - 8,535 (6,000) Their scope of work includes maternity and midwifery, infant health, welfare centre, school medical inspection etc. as well as the ordinary district nursing duties.

Since the coming into force of the National Health Service Act, there has been an increase in ante-natal work, a tendency for midwifery to decrease and maternity to increase.

There has also been an increase in the visits to old people.

Analgesia.

The nurses are provided with the necessary equipment, and expectant mothers are given analgesia as desired.

Home Helps

There is a growing demand for home helps but most of the women are fully occupied with their own domestic duties, or are employed in the local factories.

Street Day Nursery

During 1948 the average number of children attending daily was 40.

The children catered for were those of working and expectant mothers and in some cases where there was illness in the home.

The staff consisted of Matron and Assistant, 4 helpers, a cook and a cleaner.

All food supplied to the children was cooked on the premises.

There are still 30 names on the waiting list, some of these having been down for over a year.

The general health of the children has been good and although there were cases of measles in the Urban District during July, this did not necessitate closing the nursery.

Infestation

No case of infestation was reported during the year.

Greenbank Swimming Pool

There is a very attractive Swimming Pool in Street made possible by a legacy from the late Miss Alice Clark who, throughout her life, took a great interest in the welfare of women and children.

The capacity of the Pool is 200,000 gallons. The Children's section is separated from the Adult's.

The water is adequately chlorinated - break point system - frequent daily tests being made. The water is also completely changed every six hours by filtration and the surround is kept clean by frequent washing down with chlorinated water.

A qualified bath superintendent, with other helpers, is in regular attendance and the Urban District Council is represented on the Management Committee.

The season is from May 1st to September 30th - this season being marred by inclement weather which has affected the attendance, - the numbers being just over 30,000, of which 6,000 were school children.

I cannot speak too highly of the value of this pool to the district.

Parks

There are two small parks in Street for the elderly peoples' relaxation and childrens' amusement at Merriman Gardens and Wraxhill; in addition there is the Victoria Field where cricket and football are played.

The Huts

The ex-army huts situated at Woodsbatch and along Somerton Road continue to be occupied and inspections have been made. Where practical and with the limited amount of material urgent repairs have been carried out.

These huts remain a difficult problem.

Factories Act, 1937.

Under the above Act prime inspections are made by the Factory Inspector, any defects being communicated to the Local Authority. During 1948 15 inspections were made by the Sanitary Inspector. The total number of out-workers is 29; the out-workers in the main being employed in the making of shoes and gloves.

Water Supply

State:

- (i) Whether the water supply of the area and of its several parts has been satisfactory (a) in quality, (b) in quantity:
- (ii) Where there is a piped supply, whether bacteriological examinations were made of the raw water and, where treatment is installed, of the water going into supply; if so, how many and the results obtained; the results of any chemical analyses;
- (iii) Where the waters are liable to have plumbo-solvent action, the facts as to contamination by lead, including precautions taken and number and result of analyses;
- (iv) Action in respect of any form of contamination;
- (v) Particulars of the number of dwelling-houses and the number of the population supplied from public water mains (a) direct to the houses, (b) by means of stand-pipes. (This information should be given separately in respect of each parish in a Rural District).

Observations: on (i), (ii), (iii), (iv) and (v) - for rural districts give answer to (v) in parish form on separate sheet.

- (i) (a) Yes (b) Yes
- (ii) Yes - 3 - 'Excellent' Chemical satisfactory (hardness Temp. 24 Perm. 3)
- (iii) No plumbo solvent action
- (iv) No contamination - chlorimine treatment. PH = 7.4
- (v) (a) 1500 houses 5,400 people
(b) 6 houses 24 people

Extensions or improvements of Supplies during year.

Bulk supply afforded Walton (Wells R.D.C.).

Post War Proposals: give in Priority Groups, parishes or villages concerned and estimated cost (1948 prices)
Any observations

Sewage Disposal

Give any extensions of sewers, new works or improvements during year.

Nil

Post War Proposals: give Priority Group I, villages concerned, estimated cost (1948 prices). Any observations.

Consideration given to treatment of Walton (Wells R.D.C.) sewage.

Housing

	House erected during year		Houses in course of erection		Conversion to flats or dwellings.
	Perm	Temp	Perm	Temp	
Local Authority	18	-	22	-	-
Private Enterprise	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	18		22		

Houses required:

(a)	to replace those unfit	
(b)	to abate overcrowding	
(c)	where conditions are unsatisfactory e.g. two families living in same house, but not included in (a) or (b)	50
		—
	total number of applicants for Council Houses at the end of the year	250
		—

Any observations respecting the above

- (a) Very few houses could be considered unfit and beyond ordinary repair.
- (b) Overcrowding not serious

Milk

(a)	Total number of Registered Dairy Farms	19
(b)	Number of Retailers	11
(c)	Number of Producer-Retailers included in (b)	8
(d)	Number of Licensed pasteurising plants	1
(e)	Number of Heat-Treatment Plants not included in (d)	-
(f)	Number of Heat-Treatment Plants authorised by Ministry of Food	-

Any observations

Ice Cream

No of premises registered for	
(a) manufacture	2
(b) sale	13

Any observations

Most sellers obtain ice-cream from outside registered makers.

Slaughter Houses

Number of Licensed Slaughter Houses in District	-
Number of Registered Slaughter Houses in District	4
Number of Slaughter Houses in use where horses are slaughtered for human consumption	-
Names of any in use under Ministry of Food.	-

Any observations

River Pollution

Any cases dealt with during the year.

Nil

Knackers Yards.

Number Registered in your District	Nil
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